(c) whether any Human Rights delegation, foreign or Indian was permitted to visit the valley during the above period; and if so, the observations and suggestions made by them; and the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) Information is awaited from the State Govenment of Jammu and Kashmir.

Release of Militants by J & K

61. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of militants under detention in Kashmir have been released, with a view to reviving conditions congenial to holding of Assembly and Parliamentary (Lok Sabha) elections in that state;

(b) if so, the details of the militants, especially their leaders who have been so released; and

(c) the norms and procedure followed in this regard and the conditions for their release ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) The Government of Jammu and Kashmir have constituted a State level Screening Committee to review the cases of the arrested persons and detenus, and make suitable recommendations depending upon the circumstances of each case. In 1992 (upto 15-5-92) 2066 cases were screened by the Screeing Committee and 776 persons were recommended for release. Recently five prominent persons namely, S/Shri Abdul Gani Loni Qazi Nissar Ahmed, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, Prof. Abdul Gani Bhat and Maulvi Mohd. Abbas Ansari, having affiliations to political organisations of J & K were also released.

Steps to Curb Militancy in J&K

62. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for escalation in terrorist activities in J&K;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government during the last three months to curb militancy and to bring about peace in Kashmir Valley, and with what success so far; and

(c) to what extent the situation has since become conducive to restoration of democratic Government in the State and holding of elections to the Legislative Assembly and to the Lok Sabha in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) The situation in Jammu & Kashmir, though difficult, has shown a qualitative change for the better. There are visible signs of improvement which warrant cautious optimism. A growing public condemnation of the mindless violence, being perpetrated by the terrorists, has been in evidence. Despite fear of the gun and reprisal from terrorists, a dozen anti-militant demonstrations were held in the Valley during the last two months. Heightened inter-gang clashes resulting in Civilian casualities, and repeated calls for harbal acausing inconvenience to the local people have roused popular indignation.

The security forces have had notable successes in their action against militants. Availability of ground intelligence and tactical information has increased. With